

Yuma County Fair Board
Minutes 02/17/25
Yuma County Election Center

President Tom Mekelburg called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Board members in attendance were Micah Seyler, Tom Mekelburg, BJ Mekelburg, Justin Crossland, Jessica Murray, Harold Blackham, Dave Blach and Ruben Richardson. Others in attendance were Curt Lapp, Adam Gates, and Carmen Murray.

Minutes were presented. BJ moved to approve the minutes as presented. Micah seconded and motion passed.

Special Guests

- John Schaffner wanted to bring up Michael Martin Murphy again for the night show. Discussed details but was asked to get something in writing to Tom as far as cost and needs.

Reports

- Extension: Carmen reported for Travis that he had found judges. Swine Judge: Dr. David Frazier. Beef, Sheep & Goat Judge: Skyler Scotten. There was discussion on dairy judge. Jeremiah Lungwitz will be asked to send a list of potential judges to Travis. Jolynn wanted clarification on awards. Board discussed that if there are less than 5 kids in a project, they should still be awarded a trophy. People can also donate what they want and do not have to pick from a list.
- Fair Queen: Have helped with a petting zoo, Calcutta, and are putting on a Cajun boil/goat roping
- Event Manager: Carmen is just reminding everyone about getting information in to her for the fair book. She also updated on mailing information to superintendents and sponsors.
- Commissioners: There is a freezer and ice maker in the jail that we could use at the fairgrounds. Scott still needs to check with Viaero on the digital board.
- Sponsorship: Met three weeks ago and will have a letter and mailing list ready this week. They upped freebies for sponsorships—rodeo tickets.
- Vendor: 15 tentative vendors so far. Will get a list of prior vendors from Carmen. Wants to make application process as easy as possible but was told they would still have to go through City of Yuma and County process.
- Sound/Grounds: Replaced the mics for the sale ring (2). The crows nest receiver is bad and will be replaced. The mics will be ready for the upcoming steer show.
- Beer Garden/ Security: To meet ASAP. Need to talk with Todd Combs—Ruben and Tom may help out here.
- Activities: The Mexican concert lost a lot of money last year that he doesn't want to lose again. Discussed other avenues/sponsorships we could help out with or suggest to keep it going. Ruben said 10k is what the event costed.
- Volunteers: Ruben has list from Carmen

- Parade: Barnyard Mardi Gras theme. Approved 7 rodeo tickets for committee.
- Livestock/Sale: Committee would like approval to use money to get some ventilation in the small animal barn. Jessica moved they could have a budget of up to 3,000 for ventilation, Justin seconded, and the motion passed. Due to the late checks being deposited after the sale new verbiage needs to go in the fair book about a late fee for late deposits. The advisor and sale committee will contact the kids who haven't deposited checks in November. Phrasing for the fair book needs finalized by next meeting.
- Youth Development: Committee met and requested 10,000 be earmarked for the youth development project this year. Ruben moved to earmark 10,000 and BJ seconded. Motion passed. Pigs should cost roughly 500/each and feed should be 500/each as well. Additional money may be used for the facilities to make them suitable to keep animals.

Old Business:

2025 Fair Schedule was discussed as there have been some complaints coming in about kids having too many animals to show on a certain day. Board will move forward with schedule and see how things work this year. The draft horse show is up in the air because they wanted the use of the arena which interferes with other events in the arena.

New Business:

Both photographers have been contacted about 2025 fair. Beef weigh in will be Feb 22 in Wray and Joes from 9-10 am. The bucket calf age limit was discussed as people are not following age limits and we have kids under age requirement showing. The board decided to remove the age requirement but add in they must be able to handle their animal alone to show. Ruben discussed panels for show ring and was going to price 36 and 42's for the next meeting. There was discussion on breed show for dairy. Board decided to stay away from breed show due to time constraints and small classes but will announce all top animals (breed) in the ring. Submissions for the cover of the fair book were discussed. Harold moved to keep the cover the same as last year but display all the covers in the display case at the courthouse. Justin seconded and motion passed.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50PM.